

(c) a cover layer in face-to-face contact with the other major surface of the core layer, the cover layer having an opening therein to vent the element..

In another aspect, the invention involves a method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) obtaining a sample of biological fluid, e. g., interstitial fluid, from the body of a patient;
 - (b) introducing the sample to an article comprising a multiple-layer element having an optical reading chamber;
 - (c) allowing reagents to react with an analyte of interest in the sample; and
 - (d) measuring the concentration of analyte in the sample by means of an optical instrument.

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, 13, and 15 were amended. The ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE was amended. Claims 1-34 were deemed allowable over the art of record. Applicants submitted a first INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT on September 15, 1998. A copy of this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT was re-submitted on February 16, 1999. Applicants submitted a second INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT on February 17, 1999. A copy of this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT was submitted on February 24, 1999. Copies of these INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS are attached hereto. Also attached are copies of the return receipt postcards that indicate that the aforementioned INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS were received by the Patent and Trademark Office. It is requested that the Examiner initial the spaces on the 1449 forms to indicate that the references submitted by Applicants

have been considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13 were amended to change the phrase delete "suitable for use in" to "for." Claims 3 and 15 were amended to remove the antecedent basis problem.

The ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE was amended to reduce the number of words therein and to remove legalistic terms such as the term "said."

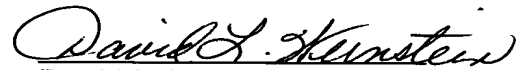
The ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE was objected to for being too lengthy. The length of the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE has been reduced to 232 words.

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection as been addressed by the amendments to claims 1, 3, 13, and 15. In claims 1 and 13, the phrase "suitable for use in" has been changed to "for." In claims 3 and 15, the wording has been modified to eliminate the need for antecedent basis. Support for the limitation "at least one reagent" can be found at page 11, lines 1-4 of the specification. In view of these amendments this rejection can be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance, and official Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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